

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed July 26, 2005, claims 1, 11, 21, and 31 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled or newly added. Therefore, claims 1, 3-11, 13-21, 23-31, and 33-44 are pending. Support for the instant amendments is provided throughout the as-filed Specification. Thus, no new matter has been added. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments, allowance of all the claims pending in the application is requested.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicant's representative (Mr. Ingram) during the telephonic interviews conducted on August 23, 2005, and August 24, 2005. The foregoing amendments and the following comments are intended to reflect the substance of this interview.

Finality of the Rejection

Applicants point out that the Applicants' Response filed May 12, 2005 was accompanied with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Since the 7/26/2005 Office Action was the first Office Action issued subsequent to the filing of the RCE, the finality of the 7/26/2005 Office Action is improper, and the amendments proposed above must be entered.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

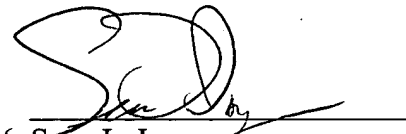
Claims 1-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. In light of the amendments to the claims presented above, this rejection is moot. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Having addressed each of the foregoing rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Dated: August 25, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



Sean L. Ingram
Registration No.: 48,283

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, Virginia 22102
Main: 703-905-2000
Direct Dial: 703-905-2107
Fax: 703-905-2500